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2. — 1. *A Selection of English Synonyms*. First American, from the Second London Edition, revised and enlarged. Boston: James Munroe & Co. 12mo. pp. 179.
2. *Easy Lessons on Reasoning*. By RICHARD WHATELY, D. D., Archbishop of Dublin. Third American, from the Fifth London Edition. Boston: James Munroe & Co. 1852. 12mo. pp. 180.
3. *Elements of Logic, comprising the Substance of the Article in the Encyclopædia Metropolitana, with Additions, &c.* By RICHARD WHATELY, D. D. New Edition, revised by the Author. Boston: James Munroe & Co. 1851. 12mo. pp. 443.

THIS little work on English Synonyms has been edited by Dr. Whately. He professes to have revised it throughout, and says that, without "presuming to call it perfect," he is confident it is "very much the best that has appeared on the subject." This is certainly high praise, and we should be inclined to qualify it by adding, that it is the best 'as far as it goes.' It makes no pretensions to the merit of completeness; it is a contribution, a valuable, though a brief one, to the literature of the subject. The distinctions which the writer makes between synonymous words indicate great acuteness, and are admirably stated and illustrated. He has wisely adopted, in several instances, the labors of others, when it was not easy to improve them; and we wish he had borrowed more, and thus enlarged his work so much that it might be used as a manual of reference. Thus, he has taken from the posthumous writings of Sir James Mackintosh the very acute and elegant explanations of two groups of synonymous words, omitting two others that are equally good, and which are not explained at all in this little treatise.

The second work on our list wrongfully bears the name of Dr. Whately on its title-page. This is an interpolation of the American editor or publisher, the English edition having been published as anonymous, though the work has been generally attributed to this distinguished author, and he has never publicly disavowed it. To place his name upon its front, therefore, is a deception; as an unwary person might be induced to purchase it, without first examining the introduction by the American editor, in which the true state of the case is avowed. We hold that any alteration of an English work, when republished in this country, is criminal, if the reader be not warned in the title-page that such a change has been made, though it relate only to some insignificant point in orthography. This book needed no such

unworthy commendation of it to public notice, as it is capable of standing on its own merits ; and it was evidently the writer's intention that it should so stand. It is an admirably clear and simple introduction to Dr. Whately's "*Elements of Logic*;" being designed, apparently, to facilitate the use of that work in academies and high schools. To those who have not leisure or inclination to contend with the abstruseness and other difficulties of the subject, as presented in the larger treatise, it affords a view of the science of reasoning which may be easily comprehended, and the faithful study of which will contribute much to the precision and clearness of the student's habits of thought.

Those who wish to become proficient in Logic cannot find more skilful and trustworthy guidance than in the last-mentioned work at the head of this notice. Its merits are now too widely known to require an enumeration of them. It has been adopted, by almost universal assent, in the higher seminaries both of England and this country. The present American edition of it is conformed to the ninth English edition, which was revised by the author, and which contains several improvements on the former issues, the arrangement of the parts being somewhat modified, and a brief but clear exposure being added of the untenable character of certain objections, which have long been made to the utility of the science, and to the general pretensions of the syllogistic theory. It has always seemed to us, that the characteristics of Dr. Whately's own mind and writings afford striking proof of the advantages to be derived from thorough study of the Aristotelian Logic. Without being naturally a very profound or original thinker, he is a vigorous reasoner, a formidable assailant of old fallacies and novel heresies, and a fearless champion of the great truths of science and religion. His statement of the grounds of an ancient dispute is so clear and precise, that the question seems virtually disposed of before he begins to argue it ; and the doctrines which he inculcates are so cautiously brought forward as the immediate results of logical analysis, that one who seeks to impugn them finds it difficult even to state an objection without stumbling upon an absurdity. His writings may be cordially commended as gymnastics of the intellect, even to those who dissent from his opinions, or who are not disposed to follow in the path which he has struck out, and along which he advances with the firm step of one to whom the ground is perfectly familiar. At times he seems a little opinionated, or inclined to dogmatism ; but generally, the spirit of his productions is as admirable as their matter. It is the spirit of earnest conviction and of Christian love.